Negotiations

Andrew Polouski called the meeting to order at 6:17 PM. Superintendent Ricci stated that the District is at a critical point. The Union has provided dates in which they are available to meet. Unfortunately, the School Committee is required to post all meetings with a 48-hour notice. The soonest we can meet will be Friday evening. Superintendent Ricci recommended that the Committee post meetings for September 28\textsuperscript{th}, September 29\textsuperscript{th}, and September 30\textsuperscript{th}. Andrew Polouski felt that the 30\textsuperscript{th} would not be an appropriate day to meet as it is a Sunday. If a court orders us to be here that is a different story but he will not come in on a Sunday to meet.

Attorney Henneous stated it would look better to the court if you decide to meet at least two days. Andrew Polouski responded that the Committee did meet with them and they chose to go to mediation. We have availed ourselves.

Holly Eaves questioned why a mediator is not yet involved to which the Superintendent responded that we haven’t agreed to one yet and we probably won’t have one ready by Friday. It was asked if an emergency meeting could be called to which Attorney Henneous explained that he did not think the rules of an emergency meeting would apply. This is not really a threat to public safety. Someone could challenge this. Superintendent Ricci suggested the Committee post for the dates he mentioned to which Bob Petit responded that he did not want to post a meeting for Sunday if the Committee would not have a quorum available to meet.

Bill Felkner made a motion, seconded by Bob Petit and it was 

Discussion ensued on the selection of a mediator. Charles Schmidt has been recommended and the union is in agreement with this. He ruled in our favor on the Buckingham case. Another mediator that has been recommended is Vincent Ragosta. If we do not agree on a mediator, the Department of Labor will appoint someone.

Bob Petit made a motion, seconded by Bill Felkner and it was 
\textbf{VOTED:} To request Vincent Ragosta be selected as mediator. In favor: Cicchetti, Eaves, Felkner, Petit and Preuhs. Abstained: Polouski and Serra. The motion carried by a vote of 5 in favor with 2 abstentions.

Superintendent Ricci advised the Committee that in the event of a job action, the Committee would want to go to court to get an injunction. We can direct Attorney Henneous to do that now but you will pay money that you may not need to. The cost would be between $2,000 to $5,000. Andrew Polouski suggesting waiting until we meet on the 28\textsuperscript{th} and 29\textsuperscript{th} and make a decision then. Attorney Henneous stated that someone in the office will move quick once they get the call. It may take a day or two at tops.
Superintendent Ricci recommended that the Committee offer to extend the contract to October 30, 2007. They may not agree to it but we should offer it. Bill Felkner questioned retroactive pay if we continue to extend the contract to which Attorney Henneous replied that becomes a negotiating tactic. You could request that all newly-enacted language take effect on November 1st.

Holly Eaves made a motion, seconded by Terri Serra and it was
VOTED: To request that the contract be extended to October 30, 2007. In favor: Cicchetti, Eaves, Felkner, Petit, Preuhs and Serra. Abstained: Polouski. The motion carried by a vote of 6 in favor with 1 abstention.

Discussion ensued on the Union’s filing of an Unfair Labor Practice against the School Committee. This is not held in abeyance until we are told it is. The Union has to make a formal request to hold it in abeyance. Attorney Henneous stated he will contact Pete Gingras to see if they have requested this. Bill Felkner was asked if he had any communication with support staff to which Bill responded that they do log onto his website but that he thought the charges were ridiculous.

Superintendent Ricci stated that he asked Sue Rogers to take our latest offer and calculate the impact of wage increases, steps and longevity and subtract the differences. This impacts different people in different ways. Over the 3 year period, the average was an 11.15% increase. Bill Felkner requested the spreadsheet that Sue prepared. Superintendent Ricci noted that based on the offer of 9/11 we are not that far off. The counterproposal they sent yesterday pushes us farther apart. The Union’s counterproposal was reviewed.

As it was past 7:00 PM, Superintendent Ricci suggested that the Committee recess, do the public meeting, keep it brief and come back into executive session to finish this.

Bob Petit made a motion, seconded by Ron Preuhs and it was
VOTED: To recess the meeting at 7:08 PM and return after open session is finished. In favor: Cicchetti, Eaves, Felkner, Petit, Preuhs and Serra. Abstained: Polouski. The motion carried by a vote of 6 in favor with 1 abstention.

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Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk